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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The California Department of Housing and Community Development Announces
\$955,000 in Federal HOME Funds for First-Time Homebuyer Assistance**

Sacramento – The California Department of Housing and Community Development today awarded \$955,000 in federal funding for the Self-Help Enterprises First-Time Homebuyer Project in the City of Dos Palos, Merced County.

The funding comes from the federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which has been made available to the state for more than 20 years. The money will be used for the construction of eleven new homes and for homebuyer gap financing to reduce monthly mortgage payments to an affordable level.

Self-Help Enterprises is a non-profit organization that helps families build their own homes using “sweat equity” as part of the down payment on a new home they otherwise could not afford. Through the self-help housing program, Self-Help Enterprises is able to assist more than 100 low-income families a year.

“Today’s award is especially gratifying because it will help those with the dreams and the determination, as well as the willingness to work hard through sweat equity,” said Acting Director Randall A. Deems.

This award is part of \$22.9 million awarded by the HOME Program to private non-profit organizations and local governments totaling six awardees. The main objective of the HOME Program is to create and retain affordable housing in rural areas of California.

Priority was given to communities which applied unsuccessfully last year, to rural communities, and to communities in compliance with State Housing Element law.

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The California Department of Housing and Community Development is dedicated to the preservation and expansion of safe and affordable housing so more Californians have a place to call home. Our team works to ensure an adequate supply of housing for Californians and promotes the growth of strong communities through its leadership, policy and program development. For more information, please visit www.hcd.ca.gov.